

Frye Lights

A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



September 2003

Volume I, Issue V



A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye

In keeping with my pledge to make sure that you are informed about critical issues facing our city, I would like to discuss some of the facts related to negotiations with the Chargers.

Last year, before the formation of the Chargers Citizen Task Force, I hired a well-known sports expert, Mr. Mark Rosentraub, to help me assess the validity of Section 31 of Chargers contract, also known as the "trigger," or renegotiation clause. If the Chargers could not meet the trigger criteria, they could not leave San Diego, and the city would not have to negotiate for a new stadium. Based upon the best available data, Mr. Rosentraub concluded that the Chargers could not trigger.

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*Proudly Serving
the District Six
Communities of:*

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

Clairemont

De Anza

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Stonecrest

Councilmember Frye Celebrates Clairemont Family Day

Every year the Clairemont Family Day celebration is a great success and this year's event was no different. Councilmember Frye helped kick off the event with the opening ceremony and the presentation of a commendation honoring community volunteer Pete Stipp. After the opening ceremony, Councilmember Frye was joined by community volunteers to cut the ribbon, opening the new picnic shelter at South Clairemont Community Park.

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Councilmember Frye and Rusty the Clown cut the ribbon on the new South Clairemont Picnic Shelter at Clairemont Family Day

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Councilmember Frye's Message Continued

This past January, the Chargers sent a notice to the city claiming they had triggered. Despite expert opinion to the contrary, and without requiring the Chargers to prove their claim, the council voted to begin negotiations. I did not support this action and voted against it. Unless and until the evidence showed that the Chargers had met the trigger criteria, I did not believe this was an appropriate action.

When negotiations began, the previously public process went into closed session and continued until August. This took a great amount of time, money and effort that would have been better spent on more pressing issues such as the budget, the underfunding of the pension plan, traffic, affordable housing, illegal grading, funding our community services, etc. Despite the numerous meetings, there was no agreement.

On August 7, 2003, the City Council met in a special session and voted to extend the negotiations with the Chargers until May 1, 2004. I did not support this extension and voted no.

On August 22, two days after the Chargers made their proposal public, I received a copy of the Chargers "preliminary feasibility study" of the 166-acre Qualcomm Stadium site. The redevelopment includes a new 22-acre stadium, 6,053 housing units on approximately 50 acres, a 400-room hotel and office space on approximately 7 acres, 29 acres of park, retail space on approximately 10 acres, 3 acres for stadium parking (6,750 parking spaces), 12,019 parking spaces for the development and 45 acres for streets and right-of-way. The proposal lists A.G. Spanos Companies as the master developer.

The linchpin of the Chargers proposal is threefold. First, they want the city to declare the 166-acre Mission Valley site "blighted" so it will qualify as a redevelopment area. Second, the Chargers want the city to give them over 60 acres of publicly owned land. Finally, they want the city to issue over \$170 million in taxpayer-financed bonds in order to fund the infrastructure improvements.

The Chargers management has also made it clear that they want our city to change the standard

under which negotiations will occur, from one of "severe financial hardship" to "economically competitive."

That is quite a difference and I, for one, am not prepared to allow that financial burden to be assumed by the taxpayers. What happened to their promise less than six years ago assuring the citizens that they would stay in San Diego if only the taxpayers would subsidize the \$68-million stadium renovation?

Over the years, our city has worked with the Chargers and made a good faith effort to keep the team in town. They have received a ticket guarantee, a beautiful practice field, a renovated stadium paid for by the taxpayers, stadium upgrades for the Super Bowl, community support for the players, the establishment of a citizen's task force not to mention the cost for attorneys.

In all, this experience has been frustrating for me. I am not allowed to communicate all of the information available to me or disclose many pertinent facts on this issue because the discussions take place in closed session. I have even struggled with deciding whether to attend these closed session meetings because I believe some of the information should be made available to the public. However, on balance, it is necessary that the residents of District Six have a voice at the table.

As always, I appreciate your comments and input that help make our community a better place in which to live, work and play.

Barnes and Noble Library Fundraiser

Councilmember Frye and the Friends of the Library will be working with Barnes and Noble to bring significant dollars to local libraries.

On Friday, September 19, 2003 through Sunday, September 21, 2003, Barnes and Noble will donate 25% of sales on book purchases to local libraries. This fundraiser applies only to the Barnes and Noble Hazard Center in Mission Valley. Please help our libraries by buying books at Barnes and Noble on the weekend of September 19th.



Clairemont Family Day Continued

Clairemont Family Day is a great opportunity for the residents to come out and support local businesses and organizations.



Councilmember Frye kicked off Clairemont Family Day at the Opening Ceremony

Thank you to the Clairemont Recreation Council, the Clairemont Town Council, the Claire-



Councilmember Frye and Dave Wilhite, Clairemont Chamber of Commerce President, show off the new Celebrate Clairemont flag

mont Chamber of Commerce and all of the wonderful community volunteers who made this event possible.

Councilmember Frye Receives Environmental Leadership Award

On August 20, Councilmember Frye was awarded the Environmental Leadership Award by the San Diego Chapter of the League of Conservation Voters for her efforts to preserve and maintain San Diego's natural environment. She also received a Commendation from Lieutenant Governor Cruz M. Bustamante in recognition of the award, which read in part, "Your continuous efforts are helping to ensure California's majestic coastlines, landscapes and natural resources will be available for future generations to enjoy." The League of Conservation Voters is a non profit organization that works to protect the environment through education and political action.

New Addition to the District Six Staff

Keith Corry joined the District Six staff in the beginning of September. Keith will be handling the Clairemont community and various policy issues. He is looking forward to meeting community members and working with you on important community issues. Keith can be reached at (619) 533-6463 or via email at kccorry@sanidiego.gov.

Serra Mesa Community Fair

Councilmember Frye will be hosting a booth at the Serra Mesa Community Fair on Saturday, September 20. The fair is held at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center located at 9020 Village Glenn Drive, 92123.

Councilmember Frye is looking forward to seeing Serra Mesa residents at the fair. For more information about the fair please contact the Serra Mesa Recreation Center at (858) 279-7287.

Community Leader Highlight -Pete Stipp-

Pete Stipp, a long time advocate for parks and recreation programs in San Diego, was honored at the Clairemont Family Day opening ceremony on August 2, 2003.

Pete currently serves on the Clairemont Town Council, the

North and South Clairemont Recreation Councils and on the Friends of Park and Recreation Board. He is to be commended for his valuable contributions to Clairemont and all of San Diego.



Councilmember Frye presents a commendation to volunteer Pete Stipp



Frye Sets Goal for Solar San Diego



Announcement of renewable energy goal at the Miramar Landfill

On August 7, Councilmember Frye announced an exciting new goal to dramatically increase the amount of power generated by renewable sources in San Diego. Joining

Councilmember Frye were the Mayor and Councilmember Zucchet.

"We are determined to learn our lesson from the 2000/2001 energy crisis as well as the enormous blackout that occurred back east this summer and take control of our energy future," Councilmember Frye said.

Frye, Zucchet and the Mayor announced that their goal is to bring 50 megawatts of new renewable energy generation sources online in the city by 2013. That is enough electricity to power up to 50,000 homes. The city aims to implement renewable sources on both city facilities and private homes and businesses.

Frye and the others will also lead the effort to establish an Energy Independence Advisory Board, which will make recommendations to the Council about how best to achieve the goal.

Currently, the City generates approximately 18 megawatts of electricity through solar and landfill gas systems. The city has solar-power systems on four city buildings and is pursuing a low-interest loan to install solar arrays on an additional 30 buildings. The city is targeting major energy consumers like fire stations,

police stations, libraries and swimming pools for solar arrays and conservation measures. The city is also exploring implementing solar on the public buildings in Balboa Park with the cooperation of the leaseholders. San Diego has also recently passed a sustainable buildings expedite program, accelerating the review process for new residential and commercial development projects that employ renewable resources to generate at least 50 percent of the power for their residential units and 30 percent for their commercial spaces.

As exciting, the city's quest for energy independence will create opportunities for local economic development. Installing renewable energy and energy conservation measures requires the services of local electricians, contractors, and solar companies.

In order to make this goal a reality, the city must work with San Diego Gas & Electric and the California Public Utilities Commission to remove the administrative, regulatory and legal hurdles to broad-scale solar implementation. Working together as a united community is the only way to succeed in this endeavor.

Councilmember Frye is excited about this next stage in our plan for a clean energy future. "By conserving energy and by generating locally produced renewable energy, we will ensure that our homes and businesses have a stable source of energy, while also creating jobs and cleaning the air."

The clean energy goal and advisory board was passed unanimously by the Rules Committee on September 3. The initiative will then go to the full City Council for approval on September 22. For those members of the community interested in participating on the Energy Independence Advisory Board, please send your cover letter and resume to our office by October 1 at 202 C Street, MS 10A, San Diego, CA 92101.



Beaches Report Published

The number of beach postings in San Diego County decreased 40 percent in 2002 according to the Natural Resources Defense Council's 13th annual Testing the Waters report.



Councilmember Frye spoke at the press conference where the report was first released

According to the report, there were 556 closings/advisories in 2002 compared with 931 in 2001. That's the good news.

However, the number of chronic or extended advisories, which are defined as postings that last 7 to 12 weeks, increased by over 60 percent from 107 days in 2001 to 178 days in 2002. That's the bad news.

In addition, the number of permanent closures, defined by NRDC as those lasting more than 13 consecutive weeks, also increased from 365 days (1 permanent closing) in 2001 to over 1,000 days (5 permanent closings) in 2002, an increase of over 170 percent.

This is important to note because days defined as extended or permanent are NOT counted in the overall total of 556 days, even though the beach was posted due to unsafe levels of bacteria.

This increase tells us that while we are making good progress on short term postings, we need to step up our efforts to reduce the number of extended and permanent postings.

Beaches with postings that exceeded 13 weeks in duration include:

Children's Pool(365 days)
Shelter Island (362 days)
Visitor's Center at Mission Bay (99 days)
Border Field State Park/Tijuana Slough (93 days)
Campland at Mission Bay (92 days)

Despite all the programs that are underway, such as a Source Identification and Epidemiological study, a contaminant dispersion study, and sediment testing, Mission Bay pollution accounted for more than one third of San Diego's closings and advisories. The public can help prevent pollution by remembering :If you don't want to swim in it, don't dump in down the storm drain.

Senator Boxer Visits San Diego

Councilmember Frye introduced United States Senator Barbara Boxer at a Sierra Club luncheon on Thursday, August 28, 2003. Senator Boxer was in San Diego to discuss issues of national and local importance. On the top of her list was the importance of local activism and participation in government. Later that afternoon Councilmember Frye



Councilmember Frye introduced Senator Boxer



Senator Boxer and Councilmember Frye at the roundtable discussion

was the moderator of a roundtable discussion with Senator Boxer that allowed non-profit organizations and community members to bring local issues to Senator Boxer's attention.



The Pension Fund: What is really going on?

In recent months the issue of the financial condition of the San Diego City Employees Retirement System (SDCERS) has been a major topic at City Hall and in the media. As Councilmember Frye began discussing the state of the SDCERS pension fund with retirees throughout the city, her concern began to grow and she felt the need to initiate a course of action to solve the problem.

On April 11, 2003, Councilmember Frye released a memorandum to the City Manager requesting that a straightforward, independent and comprehensive performance and operational audit of SDCERS be performed due to the shortfall in funding in the pension fund and the pressing need to determine the problem and solution to this dilemma. She believes that an audit of this nature is crucial to adequately assess the current performance of SDCERS.

As a result of these concerns, a nine member Pension Reform Commission will be formed to review SDCERS. The Pension Reform Commission has a number of objectives. The most important is to review the scope and independence of audits currently performed by SDCERS and recommend if an independent comprehensive performance and operational audit is needed. The Commission will also review and evaluate any need for change to the SDCERS Board of Trustees, evaluate and recommend any needed changes to the current defined benefit structure, explore the feasibility of switching to a defined contribution plan and the possibility of joining CalPERS. The Commission will also make recommendations regarding retiree health insurance benefits.

There are a couple of reasons for the current shortfall regarding pension and health insurance funding. One reason for the shortfall has been the declining investment market over the past three years. Another reason is because since 1996 the City has been making its contributions to the Retirement Fund under a

negotiated agreement known as the Manager's Proposal. This proposal allows the City to make its required annual contribution to the fund at a rate less than the rate calculated by the actuary. As a result of these factors, the Retirement Fund is at its lowest funded ratio in well over a decade, and the effect of a less than full-actuarial contribution policy has impacted the current and future strength of the City's Retirement Fund.

Councilmember Frye disagrees with past City Council policy of allowing the City to make its required annual contribution to the fund at a rate less than the rate calculated. At the November 18, 2002 City Council meeting the Council voted (8-1) to once again allow the City to contribute less than the full amount required to the City Retirement Fund. Seeing this practice as a flawed action, Frye alone voted against it.

Councilmember Frye believes it is crucial that an independent audit be performed to identify and solve the aforementioned issues with SDCERS. In order to avoid further funding shortfalls in the coming years it is important that the current problems with the retirement system be reviewed and addressed in a timely manner. An independent audit would accomplish this goal. She will continue to work her hardest and use her very best judgment in finding a solution to this funding shortfall.

Frye Featured in National Magazine

Councilmember Frye was named a Water Hero by the nationally distributed Outside Magazine. Frye was one of only five people to be given this honor.

The August issue of Outside Magazine was focused on many different water related issues. Councilmember Frye was held up as a Water Hero for her past work as the founder of Surfers Tired of Pollution and for her current work to limit commercial development in Mission Bay Park and to preserve the San Diego River.



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858 495-7856
Animal Regulation	236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	235-1169
Birth and Death Records	237-0502
Brush Abatement	533-4444
Building Permits	446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858 292-6484
City Council Docket Info	533-4000
City Directory	236-5555
Community Service Center	858 581-4111
Code Violations	236-5500
Curb Maintenance	527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858 694-7000
Dog Licenses	767-2675
Fire Stations	533-4300
Graffiti	525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858 694-7000
Housing Commission	231-9400
Humane Society	299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858 573-1390
Clairemont	858 581-9935
Linda Vista	858 573-1399
North Clairemont	858 581-9931
Serra Mesa	858 573-1396
Litter Control	858 492-5010
Noise Regulation	236-5500
Office of Small Business	685-1390
Park and Recreation	525-8219
Parking Citations	236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	527-7500
Rec Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858 573-1387
Linda Vista	858 573-1392
North Clairemont	858 581-9926
Serra Mesa	858 573-1408
South Clairemont	858 581-9924
Tecolote	858 581-9930
Recycling Hotline	858 694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858 565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	527-7500
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	235-1000
Street Lights	527-7500
Street Sweeping	527-7500
Traffic Control	533-3126
Tree Maintenance	527-7500
Water Emergency	515-3525
Water Utilities	515-3500
Zoning Regulation Info	236-5555

District Six Community Meetings

Clairemont Town Council
Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria,
4150 Ute Drive
When: 1st Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee
Place: Clairemont Friendship Senior Center,
4425 Bannock Ave.
When: 3rd Tuesday/ Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group
Place: National University,
9388 Light Wave # 114
When: 3rd Wednesday/ Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Civic Association
Place: Linda Vista Recreation Center,
7064 Levant Street
When: 3rd Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group
Place: Linda Vista Library,
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Monday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee
Place: Rotating Venue
When: 1st Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council
Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 3rd Thursday/ Odd Months
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Unified Planning Committee
Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 1st Wednesday/ Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council
Place: ARC, 9575 Aero Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group
Place: Taft Junior High School,
9191 Gramercy Dr.
When: 3rd Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.



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